



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 August 2019

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forty-first session

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 9

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note verbale dated 15 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to draw the attention of the Office to the following.

The glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are still a hard reality in different regions of the globe.

As highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in her report (A/HRC/41/55), monuments are erected and streets are renamed glorifying former Nazi or fascist leaders in different parts of the world.

In this context, it should be noted that the glorification of fascism, anti-Semitism and terrorism along with anti-Azerbaijanism have become an integral part of the State policy of the Republic of Armenia, where streets, squares and educational institutions are being named to honour Nazi “heroes”. The most popular of them in the Republic of Armenia is Garegin Nzhdeh (Garegin Ter-Arutunyan). During the Second World War, he collaborated with Nazi Germany. Two years ago, the Armenian Government erected a monument to Garegin Nzhdeh in the centre of capital of the Republic of Armenia.

It is particularly worthwhile to highlight that the crimes of Nzhdeh affected thousands of innocent civilians of numerous nationalities, including Slavs and Jews. During the Second World War, Nzhdeh joined the ranks of Nazi Germany and created the infamous “Armenian Legion” of the Waffen SS. As a part of the German Wehrmacht, the Armenian Legion headed by Nzhdeh fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Nazis in the Crimean peninsula and in the Caucasus, as well as in southern France, further assisting the Nazis in rounding up Jews and members of the resistance, and organized death marches to Nazi concentration camps. Consequently, he was convicted by a Soviet court for military crimes and collaboration with Nazi Germany and sentenced to imprisonment.

In light of the above, any initiative aiming at the rehabilitation of Nzhdeh and his ideology is extremely dangerous, as it serves to fuel contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.



The glorification of Nazi collaborators has consistently been condemned by the international community. Most recently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/157, *inter alia* expressed deep concern about glorification, in any form, of the Nazi movement, including by erecting monuments and memorials for those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement, as well as by declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement participants in national liberation movements. The Assembly encouraged all States to take appropriate concrete measures in order to prevent revisionism in respect of the Second World War and the denial of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Second World War.

Apart from his above-mentioned crimes, in 1918–1920 Garegin Nzhdeh headed Armenian nationalist paramilitary groups that committed mass murder against civilian Azerbaijanis residing in the Azerbaijani-populated Zangazur region, in the territory of the modern-day Republic of Armenia. As a result, more than 10,000 Azerbaijani civilians were brutally killed and 115 Azerbaijani villages were razed to the ground.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the present note verbale as a document of the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 9.
